

14 January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

You may be aware that we currently ask our students to choose their GCSE courses in Year 8 and begin the preparation for some of these courses in Year 9.

We review our curriculum regularly and have recently been considering the pros and cons of our current approach. On the plus side it allows students to study their chosen options in a little more depth. However, it also means that students stop studying some subjects altogether from the end of Year 8, thus narrowing their curriculum experience. Some students find choosing subjects in Year 8 is too soon to have to make such a pivotal decision. Studying for a GCSE exam over three years also means students have to retain examination material for a longer period of time.

We have therefore taken the decision to revert to a two-year Key Stage 4 curriculum, in line with the majority of other secondary schools. This means that the students will choose their GCSE options during Year 9 and will begin to study the specifications for these from Year 10. Students will continue to study the full suite of national curriculum subjects throughout Year 9. Students will still be able to take the same number of GCSE qualifications and have the same breadth of opportunities.

Should you have any questions about this, members of the senior leadership team will be available at Parents Evening on Thursday to answer these.

Yours sincerely

Alex Newton
Principal

